

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 PC-01 /095 W  
-----078809 112007Z /14

R 090855Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5276

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANJUL 0373

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP MR GA

SUBJ: GAMBIAN POSITION ON SAHARA

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 0282

1. LATE JANUARY OFFICIAL VISIT TO MAURITANIA BY MIN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JABANG (REFTEL) GAVE PUBLIC DISPLAY TO GAMBIAN BIAS FAVORING MAURITANIA ON SAHARA QUESTION. HOWEVER, ALGERIAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY VICE PRESIDENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, NYATCHI YAKA, (PHON) VISITED BANJUL MARCH 4-6 TO PRESENT OTHER SIDE OF ISSUE. RADIO GAMBIA REPORTED STATEMENT BY DELEGATION THAT CRITICIZED FRENCH "INTERFERENCE" IN SAHARA, CONDEMNED "EXPANSIONISM" (UNSPECIFIED) AND ASKED THAT PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION BE UPHELD. ACCORDING TO BROADCAST, ALGERIAN MINISTERIAL-LEVEL DELEGATION EXPECTED IN BANJUL SOON TO DISCUSS INCREASED TRADE AND COOPERATION.

2. GAMBIAN POSITION ON WESTERN SAHARA CLEARLY FAVORS  
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MAURITANIA, WHICH IS VIEWED AS FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR WITH WHOM GAMBIA HAS CLOSE FAMILY AND ECONOMIC TIES. MOREOVER, GOTG APPRECIATES SENEGALESE DESIRE GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO OULD DADDAH GOVERNMENT. FEELING HERE IS THAT GAMBIAN SECURITY BEGINS AT EXTERIOR BORDERS OF SENEGAL. BUT SOME GAMBIA OFFICIALS ARE DISTURBED THAT SAHARAN PEOPLE HAVE NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE SELF-DETERMINATION, THUS

PUBLIC COMMENT ON SAHARA IS USUALLY MUTED, AND ALGERIANS WERE GIVEN HIGH-LEVEL HEARING.

3. EBOU TAAL, MEA PERMANENT SECRETARY, JUST RETURNED FROM OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING IN TRIPOLI, TOLD CHARGE THAT OAU SUMMIT ON SAHARA SEEMS TO BE DEAD ISSUE. PLANNED MARCH MEETING IN LIBREVILLE WAS DISCUSSED FOR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (BECAUSE TRIPOLI SESSION WAS TECHNICALLY BUDGET CONFERENCE). GABON DEL OBJECTED THAT DOLS ONE MILLION VOTED BY OAU TO SUSTAIN SAHARA SUMMIT WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT. TAAL OBSERVED THAT PARTIES ARE SO FAR APART ON ISSUE IT UNCERTAIN WHAT EFFECT, IF ANY, SUMMIT COULD HAVE ON PROTAGONISTS.  
WYGANT

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SUMMIT MEETINGS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS  
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**Draft Date:** 09 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BANJUL00373  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, PBOR, MR, GA, WI, AL  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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